

with other organizations to reach and assist the residents of Long Branch. Its "Success Starts at Home" fundraiser honors its community partners for the work they do to strengthen the community.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating St. James' Church and Beatriz Oesterheld for their contributions to the community and thank the Long Branch Concordance for hosting tonight's "Success Starts at Home" event.

CONGRATULATING FRANCIS GIUNTA

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2013*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Francis Giunta for being inducted into the Dubuque Area Labor Hall of Fame. Francis has been an active member of the Communication Workers of America (CWA) for over 40 years.

Francis has been an active member of the Dubuque labor community. In 1975, he was elected Chief Union Steward for his CWA local. In 1977, Francis was elected President of his CWA local which is a position he continues to hold today. Francis has served many different roles in the Dubuque labor community. He served as President of the Dubuque Federation of Labor in the 1980s and has sat on various labor boards such as the United Labor Participation Committee and the Dubuque Area Labor Management Council.

Francis has also seen a lot of change throughout his career. When Francis began his career in telecommunications, many Americans were using "party lines" which were shared telephone lines used by multiple households. When he retired, he worked in a digital subscriber age dealing with DSL and Broadband lines. I congratulate Francis on his induction into the Dubuque Area Labor Hall of Fame and wish him all of the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING MR. DANNIEL J. PETRO, RECIPIENT OF THE FIRST INAUGURAL DANNIEL J. PETRO—"THE BRIGHT FUTURE OF WEST ORANGE" AWARD

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2013*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognize a close friend of mine and a highly accomplished leader in the electrical contracting field. Mr. Danniel J. Petro is a co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Bright Future Electric, LLC, and he is a devoted servant to the Central Florida community.

Dan began his electrician career as an Apprentice Electrician for Indiana University in the early 1960's. In 1965, after completing his training and passing his journeyman qualifications test, Dan became supervisor of his father's company, Petro Electric.

Relocating to Florida in 1970, Dan began working for Orange County Schools as an

Area Lead Electrician until 1973 when he acquired his Florida Master Electrician License and joined the Local 606 while working with Fishbach & Moore. Continuing his education, Dan earned his Florida Teaching Certificate in 1975 and started an electrician program for Westside Vo-Tech. After several years of teaching others, Dan took his talent and founded Amber Electric in 1979.

Amber Electric became known for its quality and reliable service, and under his leadership, grew into a multi-million dollar company which was sold in 1998 to Integrated Electrical Services, IES, based out of Houston, Texas. In the Amber Electric and IES merger, Dan joined IES as one of their Founding Partners and as the Regional Operating Officer for the State of Florida.

After 17 years of partnership, Dan resigned from his post as President of Eastern Operations for IES in 2005. In 2006, Dan, Roger Scroggins and Allen McMain founded Bright Future Electric, LLC, with offices located in Florida and Alabama.

Throughout his long career, Dan has established an impressive and storied history of involvement in the Central Florida community. He has served many boards and committees, including the Florida State Department of Education Advisory Committee and the West Orange Chamber of Commerce, where he formally served as Chairman and currently serves as a trustee. Due to his leadership in the community, he has also received many awards and recognitions for his efforts including the Florida Association of Electrical Contractors, FAEC, Lifetime Achievement Award and on several occasions the FAEC Man of the Year Award.

Dan has been a constant source of support for our community. He has promoted an array of community associations including, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, West Orange Boys and Girls Club, Friends of Lake Apopka, Oakland Nature Preserve, Health Alliance Family Care Center, the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation, and Winter Garden Rotary Club. His generous spirit is an example of the life-changing impact a dedicated leader can have on individual lives and a community.

On February 7, 2013, the West Orange Chamber of Commerce will be honoring Mr. Petro with the first inaugural Danniel J. Petro—"The Bright Future of West Orange" Award at the Annual Big Orange Awards Reception in West Orange County. Through his investment in the community, he has created opportunities and served others in our community in a way that keeps our futures bright. There is no doubt that this prestigious award deserves to bear Dan's name.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am honored to recognize Dan for the devotion with which he serves our community. His commitment to excellence, leadership and service is to be admired, and his example inspires others to follow in his footsteps.

DR. PETER R. BETZER HONORED FOR HIS VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2013*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the leaders of the science and edu-

cation community of the Tampa Bay area who are honoring Dr. Peter R. Betzer of St. Petersburg, Florida this Saturday with the 2013 ARCS STEM Visionary Catalyst Award for his life-long work to inspire generations of students to pursue the study of science, technology, engineering and math, STEM.

There is no more appropriate award with which to honor Peter than one that pays tribute to his vision because he has brought vision and strong leadership to every area in which he has been involved over the more than 40 years he has lived and worked in our community.

Peter found his way to St. Petersburg in 1971 after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Rhode Island. He taught chemical oceanography at the University of South Florida's Department of Marine Science. By 1982 he became Chairman of the Department and in 2000 he was named Dean of the newly established College of Marine Science. I still remember my first meetings with Peter as the Department and College grew. We agreed at the time that we would do all we could to make the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg a world-class center for the study of marine science. With Peter's vision and his passion we have done just that.

Under Peter's guidance, the College became an important partner of the United States Navy in developing systems to protect our nation's ports and waterways as well as those of our allies. The technology and systems developed there have proven extremely useful to our nation's homeland and environmental security agencies. These include an underwater mass spectrometer and an underwater mapping system that have created tremendous commercial opportunities and were critical to monitoring the impact of oil from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

The development of these systems only enhanced the growth of the University's reputation as a world-class center for the study of marine science, and strengthened Peter's efforts to bring other agencies and businesses to St. Petersburg: this to create a true marine science hub in the southeast U.S. Together, the community developed an innovative plan to bring the United States Geological Survey to campus and established an office of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service in downtown St. Petersburg. Along with the city, we developed a public/private partnership to bring the world-renowned SRI International to the port and to bring nearby a new division of Draper Labs. Peter was at the center as the architect of all these developments. With each one, the opportunities to study the sciences grew along with the interests of local, national and international students.

It is Dr. Peter Betzer's ability to provide the vision and act as the catalyst that the ARCS Foundation, which stands for Achievement Rewards for College Scientists, will be honoring at a dinner to raise funds to support Tampa Bay area students pursuing the study of science, technology, engineering and math.

As a leader in Marine Science education at the University of South Florida, Peter recognized early-on the importance of promoting the broad spectrum of STEM to USF's students. Back in the early 1990's, a bright marine science student named Mike Morris started with an idea born of studying ocean chemical processes and created a company worth tens of millions of dollars in a few short years—